

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-12 will be pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REQUIRES PROCESSING

As a preliminary matter, the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 25, 2004 has not been acknowledged in the current Official Action nor has counsel received a copy of the PTO-1449 form submitted with the IDS showing the examiner's consideration of the single document cited in it.

ALLOWED AND ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

In the current Action the examiner has found claim 8 to be allowable and indicates that claims 2, 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; *see* the second paragraph on page 5 of the Action. While claims 4 and 5 are indeed dependent claims (from claim 3) claim 2 is not. Accordingly, claim 2 should be allowed as well as the claims dependent from it.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS 3 AND 6

In the Preliminary Amendment dated April 8, 2004, claims 3 and 6 originally dependent upon claim 1 or 2 were amended to depend from claim 1 alone – this amendment, made "without prejudice" -- was to reduce initial filing fees. Since, however, claim 2 is an independent claim, claims 3 and 6 are now amended to store dependency upon claim 1 or 2.

35 USC §112 REJECTION

In the Office Action, page 2, lines 1 to 3, the Examiner states that claims 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. On lines 4 to 9 of the same page, however, the Examiner refers to unclear points with respect to only claims 6 and 10. Counsel understands that claims 9, 11 and 12 are included in this rejection as they depend from rejected claims.

In the Office Action, page 2, line 4, the Examiner states that "claim 6 appears to reiterate the features already claimed in claim 1". This is not so. Claim 6 is directed to a "glass window" made of the glass of claim 1. A glass window is different from "glass for a window" as claimed in claim 1. The two claims are distinct.

To emphasize this difference, claim 6 is revised to refer to "A glass window". In claim 6, further, the expression "for a window" has been deleted for clarity to read simply "made of the glass" of claim 1.

In the Office Action, page 2, line 7, the Examiner states that "In claim 10 the use of 'precision press molding' should be better described".

The "precision press molding" is well known in the glass molding art. This process is explained in the description, section [0067]. Of the various methods of press molding a glass, the precision press molding method is a method for forming on a glass a precise optical-function surface, i.e., a surface to be used for reflecting, refracting, diffracting or transmitting light as applicant explains in his specification.

35 USC §103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 11

In the Office Action, pages 2 – 3, the Examiner states that claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 are obvious over Dumesnil US '990 in view of the description on pages 1 – 2 of the present specification.

Claims 1 and 3 are directed to "glass for a window for a semiconductor package". Claims 6 and 7 are directed to "a glass window for a semiconductor package", and claim 11 is directed to "a semiconductor package".

In contrast, Dumesnil US '990 addresses the problem of sealing semiconductor devices in hermetic ceramic packages with a low temperature sealing glass, and concurrently it addresses the problem of bonding (die attachment) to a ceramic surface certain types of temperature-sensitive semiconductor devices at the lowest possible temperature (see column 1, lines 18 to 24).

That is, Dumesnil relates to a sealing glass that is used for bonding semiconductor devices to a surface of a package made of ceramic, and this glass is entirely different from the glass of claim 1 which is used as a window material for a semiconductor package made of a plastic. This difference is acknowledged at page 3, lines 8-9 of the Action.

Dumesnil states that his glass may be used together with a refractory ceramic filler (column 4, lines 14 to 17), and it is clear from this description that Dumesnil does not intend to

use his glass as a window for a semiconductor package. Such a glass/filler mixture would be unsuited for a window for a semiconductor package.

In the Office Action, page 3, lines 10 to 12, the Examiner asserts that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in this art that the sealing glass of Dumesnil also includes those glass windows and lenses". However, the sealing glass of Dumesnil and the glass of claim 1 for a window of a semiconductor package are different from each other as explained above, the Examiner's statement above is not correct. Applicant's glass composition is not interchangeable with Dumesnil's glass.

For these reasons, claim 1 is not obvious over Dumesnil.

The remaining claims, claims 3, 6, 9 and 11, are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1, so that these claims also are not obvious over Dumesnil.

Claim 7, directed to a glass window for a semiconductor package, is not obvious over Dumesnil that discloses only a sealing glass.

Claim 10

In the Office Action, page 4, the Examiner argues in a separate rejection that claim 10 is obvious over Dumesnil in view of a description on pages 1 – 2 of the present specification and a description of Hamanaka US '761.

Claim 10 is directed to a process for the production of a glass window for a semiconductor package.

As explained above, Dumesnil discloses a sealing glass for bonding semiconductor devices to a surface of a ceramic package, and the sealing glass may have any specific form. In the Office Action, page 4, the Examiner also argues that the sealing glass of Dumesnil necessarily includes glass windows and lenses. This assertion is incorrect for the reasons explained above.

The Examiner states that Hamanaka teaches press molding of a lens or a glass, and refers to column 1, line 44 as a reason for this statement. This portion of Hamanaka states: "a photopolymer molding method whereby ultraviolet-curing resin is press-molded on a surface of the glass substrate". While Hamanaka describes press-molding of a resin it clearly does not describe press-molding of a glass.

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Further, even if it is true that "Glasses or lenses may typically be produced by press molding" as posited by the Examiner, Dumesnil relates to a sealing glass that does not have any specific form or structure. Accordingly there would be no incentive or suggestion to attempt to press-mold this amorphous sealing glass to produce a glass window for a semiconductor package.

Therefore, the process of claim 10 is not obvious over Dumesnil in view of Hamanaka.

For the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application define inventive subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance are solicited. Should the examiner require further information, please contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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